

Lail Vineyards



2005 J. DANIEL CUVEE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY

THE PEOPLE

Lail Vineyards traces its Napa Valley roots back five generations to the founding of Inglenook by Gustav Niebaum, great-grand uncle of Robin Daniel Lail. Passed down to third generation owner John Daniel, Jr., Inglenook thrived under his direction from 1933 to 1964 as he also played a major role in the development of the Napa Valley appellation. Both Niebaum and Daniel were recently inducted into the Vintners Hall of Fame at the Culinary Institute of America, Greystone. With Lail Vineyards, the traditions of Inglenook have been brought into the 21st century by Robin and her family partners. This flagship J. Daniel Cuvee Cabernet Sauvignon brings to each glass a historic family winemaking tradition. Each year with the blend of their ingredients — the land, the seasons, the winemaking team and the generations who led the way — the Lails continue their passionate quest to produce the very finest wines in the world.

THE WINE

The spring of 2005 was very wet, but the summer that followed was mild without any heat waves. The vines were healthy and produced slightly heavier clusters and higher yields, with good natural acidity. The grapes had a long hang time, and we harvested about ten days later than normal and one month later than in 2004. In the winery, maceration was longer during fermentation for proper extraction of color and flavors. The J. Daniel Cuvee was aged in 70% new French oak barrels for nineteen months. “The wine shows intense ruby color. The very seductive nose reveals fresh crushed berries of cassis, strawberry and cherry essence. The attack in the mouth is dense with soft texture and layered with fruit. It expresses the finesse and harmony of a ‘grand vin’. The finish arrives with vibrancy and pure tannins.”

—Philippe Melka, Winemaker

“The 2005 J. Daniel Cuvee has put on considerable weight since last year. This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon is full-bodied, powerful, tannic, and seems to combine the best of both a top Bordeaux and a Napa Cabernet Sauvignon. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2030.” (94 points) — Robert Parker

“Good full medium ruby. Black cherry, cassis and licorice on the slightly medicinal nose. Pliant, juicy and spicy, with good grip to the flavors of dark berries, plum and bittersweet chocolate; this reminded me of a St. Julien. Nicely tactile wine, finishing persistent and complex, with dusty tannins. A very successful vintage for this wine.” (93 points) — Stephen Tanzer

PROPRIETORS: The Lail Family

THE WINE: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

WINEMAKER: Philippe Melka

PRODUCTION: 710 cases

(bottled as 1420 units of 6 x 750ml)

VINEYARDS: Howell Mountain,

Oakville, and Coombsville

RELEASE: Summer 2008